

# Capitol news

REG U.S. PAT. OFF.

from  
Hollywood



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EDITED BY DAVE DEXTER, JR.

## At Deadline

Lester Cowan has just secured Dina Shore's signature on contracts calling for the Tennessee thrush to play a leading role—but not the role of Venus—in the forthcoming celluloid version of "One Touch of Venus" which Cowan will produce for Universal-International Studios in early '48.

Dinah is set to handle the role of a chirping secretary. It will be her first movie commitment since "Fun and Fancy Free" for Walt Disney. She's also signed to co-star with Harry James' band on the coming Philip Morris radio program, starting in January on Fridays via CBS. For other news regarding La Belle Shore, see Page 13.

Charlotte and Woody Herman are expecting again. Their daughter Ingrid is now 6.

Herb Jeffries, remembered by many as featured baritone with Duke Ellington from 1939 to 1942, will trek to New York to do a singing single at the Blue Angel bistro starting Jan. 5. He recently closed at the Hollywood Morocco Club, where he shared billing with up-and-coming Kay Starr.

Alfred Newman, 20th-Fox music bigwig, married Martha Montgomery on Nov. 6 at the L. A. city hall. She's under acting contract to Sam Goldwyn.

Nancy Norman, once with Sam Kaye, snagged the regular singing spot on the "It's a Great Life" KNX program in Hollywood. Lud Gluskin wields the stick.

Jock Barry Gray landed a new mike job in Florida, cancelling out his trip to California.

Hoagy Carmichael is doing a new radio stanza Sundays over CBS from Hollywood.

Jean Sablon, French crooner, will star in "Midnight Waltz" movie with Paulette Morrison.



## DAVE DEXTER'S *surface noise*

### WHAT'S NEWS?

A little man from Chicago controls the news this month. But here are sidelights that won't make the headlines as '47 nears its end:

**BOOKS**—Ed (Slick) Condon's "We Called It Music" shapes up as a witty package of reminiscences, most of them revolving around the zanier characters of jazz, of which Condon is one. Thomas Sugrue shares author's credit; his ghosting is thorough and literate, even though he doesn't quite succeed in building his friend Condon as a musical genius, nor as the heroic martyr Eddie would like to be. Older musicians and jazz fans will like "We Called It Music." Or certainly portions of it. Henry Holt publishes the tome. Less successful is John Ball's "Records For Pleasure," a new offering from the Rutgers University Press, in which Ball uses 201 pages to arbitrarily list a series of discs best-suited to the collector. Ball is a "classical" man, and his brief references to jazz are absurd. Youngsters may find something in Ball's book worth the \$2.50 it costs, however.

**CHIRPS**—Anita O'Day, who is anything but unspectacular no matter what she's doing, upped and ankled the L. A. Red Feather the other p.m. when a table of hecklers started putting her on but strong. Nor did she ever go back . . . Nan Wynn hits the comeback trail on Danny Thomas' new Sanka show . . . Judy Garland is busy etching a gang of Irving Berlin songs for MGM's "Easter Parade" film, now rolling, with Fred Astaire also starred and Johnny Green conducting the orchestra to be heard on the flicker's soundtrack. At least a dozen of Berlin's ditties will be featured . . . Kay Starr is recording several of those fine old tunes suggested by readers of this pillar. "Then I'll Be Tired Of You" and "Was That The Human Thing To Do?" will be released Dec. 10. And more to come!

**BANDS**—Charlie Barnet writes his press agent from somewhere out on the road that the band business "has gone where vaudeville went" and is as dead as "Old Man Kelsey himself." Come, come, Sir Charles. That ain't the way Kenton writes. There's nothin' wrong with the music biz that something good—something different—won't cure . . . Woody Herman's doing okie-dookey out there in the wilds of the Middlewest, and he'll be playing Ottumwa, Iowa, Dec. 1; Austin, Minn., Dec. 2; St. Paul, 3rd; Appleton, Wisc., 4th; Chicago, 5th; Milwaukee (his home bailiwick) on the 7th, and five days at St. Louis' Tune Town starting Dec. 9. He gets back to his family in Hollywood for the holidays on Dec. 23 and will—natch—etch a batch of slicings before New Year's eve . . . Count Basie rolls on and on, month after month and year after year, with a band that consistently thrills. Still the best rhythm section in the business, too.

**JOCKS**—New York's Fred Robbins and H'wood's Gene Norman take time out once a week to transcribe a five-minute summary of what gives and what goes on in their respective cities, and then they exchange with each other via air express for broadcast 3,500 miles away. Does 'em a lot of good and makes good listening, too.

**MAGS**—Down Beat beat down that libel suit by a waxworks, the first court case the mag has had since Isham Jones rocked the sheet with a \$500,000 suit some eight years ago. And that reminds, too, that the same rag is currently overhauling its editorial staff. Glenn Burrs and Ned Williams, who run it, are seeking replacements for Bill Gottlieb, Don Haynes and Mike Levin—with old-timer Tommy Herrick skedded to return in a top slot . . . Bob Bach's byline is now in The Billboard, giving that Cincy weekly a reviewer and a reporter who is one of the finest anywhere. Now if BB could just revamp its shaky, inconsistent and often incoherent record department (reviews, popularity charts, hit possibilities) it could be the strongest in the music field . . . The European music mags are all filled with controversies regarding bebop. Instead of wheat, mebbe we should wrap Lennie Tristano in a flour sack and ship him over.

**CAGS**—Irving Hoffman tells of the bandleader who was playing poker with one of his sidemen, a sax player who had just joined the band. "I win," said the youngster. "Whatta ya' got?" asked the maestro. "Three aces," replied the sax man. "No you don't, I win," the leader came back. "Whatta ya' got?" asked the sideman. "Two deuces and your next week's paycheck," said the leader. "You sure do," came back the other. "How come you're so lucky?"

CAPITOL NEWS

CAPITOL NEWS

# Music Biz Buzzes As Petrillo Ban On Waxing Draws Near

In the face of James C. Petrillo's statement that no more records will be made by union musicians after midnight, Dec. 31, the Hollywood music scene was hypoed to extreme activity last month. The pace is expected to become even more hectic as the final battle deadline approaches.

Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians, has the power to restrain the 225,000 members of his union from cutting wax. But he can't stop the record companies—large or small—from releasing discs which were recorded before next Dec. 31.

In short, new records will be coming out throughout 1948, just as they did in 1947.

Most "big name" artists will have a comfortable supply of masters in storage. Record buyers will soon notice that more and more old songs are being revived. Every band and every singer is frantically recording numerous oldies. They won't become "dated" even if they aren't released for a year or two.

Disc jocks still will have a steady and bountiful supply of new platters. Some experts estimate that enough discs will be safely stored away to run most companies a minimum of five years. Several thousand musicians, meanwhile, will be forced to obtain other employment.

No man knows how long the ban will be in force. The record companies are all reportedly desirous—anxious—to negotiate with Petrillo. But no meetings have yet been held.

### Former Kyser Drummer Dies in California

Eddie Shea is dead. The personable drummer, who for many years was one of the featured sidemen in Kay Kyser's orchestra, died in California last month. He had been ill, off and on, for several years.



AGILE ANGLER . . . Alvin Rey forsook his gitbox last month to try his luck in the deep waters of the Pacific Ocean off Santa Monica. The camera doesn't lie—latch the 150-pound result. As for Rey's band, it jumps more than lightly on "Johnson Rag" and "Patches," just released back to back on a new Cap biscuit.



### 'WHITE CHRISTMAS'

From the Paramount Picture, "Holiday Inn"

### 'SILENT NIGHT'

Capitol RECORDS

CAPITAL RECORD No. 319





**VETERANS BOTH**, in tune-slinging circles, Al Jolson and Bing Crosby transcribed together on a Philco program to be released after the Petrillo ban goes into effect on Jan. 1. Joley, who heads his own NBC program, has been spending most of his spare time under sunny skies at Palm Springs. Crosby doesn't have any spare time.

## Fightin' Flack Proves Point; Lawrence's Publicity Boffo BUT DO WEST COAST DANCERS KNOW IT?

Protesting that the Elliot Lawrence orchestra is not "virtually unknown" and flatly denying that his exploitation of the ork has been poor, or even unconventional in design, as a news story in the November issue of the Capitol News asserted, George B. Evans points to the publicity young Lawrence has had and argues that it shapes up as "one of the most thorough and successful campaigns in the entire history of the band business."

Evans, head of a nationally known office which publicizes Dinah Shore, Frank Sinatra, Kitty Kallen, Duke Ellington and other attractions, proudly points to the "sensational" spreads devoted to the Lawrence band in the past two years by Collier's, Time, Saturday Evening Post, Look and other national publications. There's no doubt about it—the former Philly child prodigy and

piano virtuoso has enjoyed a tremendous press ever since he organized his present crew some 25 months ago.

Now at the Hollywood Palladium, Lawrence's box-office figures soon will be available. The January issue of the Cap News will recap them. Maybe west coast dancers don't read Collier's and the other mags.

—Dexter.

### Maxwell Heads East

Blonde Marilyn Maxwell will open Dec. 4 at the New York Capitol Theater in conjunction with Paul Whiteman's band. They'll follow Frank Sinatra on the Cap stage. Maxwell sang with Ted Weems before scoring film successes as an actress.

### Roy Milton Opening

Roy Milton's jumping Oklahoma band, with Camille Howard at the Knabe, will open at the L. A. Million Dollar Theater on Jan. 1 for a week.

## vine street gab

A "DREAM BAND" comprised of the highest paid Hollywood studio musicians is beginning to attract west coast attention. Led by Lou Mitchell, trumpeter, the outfit has been working Saturday night in San Clemente, a Los Angeles suburb, and featuring in its personnel men like Johnny Best, Mahlon Clark, Artie Shapiro, Ralph Collier, Tommy Todd, Al Hendrickson, Eddie Kusby, Hoyt Bohannon, Guy McReynolds, George Seaburg and others.

Mitchell and his sidemen — the highest paid musicians in the world because of their network, film and recording schedules — banded together strictly for kicks. Todd clefs most of the arrangements.

Every songwriter in California is scurrying around trying to get tunes on wax. It's the biggest ratrace in Hollywood's history.

Down Beat's Glenn Burrs a frantic coast visitor.

The "Wings Over Jordan" choir will take over the stage of the L. A. Million Dollar Theater for the pre-Christmas week following the run of the "Freaks" film.

Californians will admit the superiority of the '47 S. M. U. football team, but that adolescent bebop trumpet tooter with the S. M. U. band wouldn't rate a chair in any of the west coast collegiate bands. The kid loused up the Coliseum between halves of the UCLA-S. M. U. imbroglio.

Coffee Dan's eatery directly underneath Capitol's executive offices at Sunset & Vine, drawing virtually all the musician-songwriter trade these afternoons.

Pied Pipers currently starring in show at ornate Flamingo Hotel, Las Vegas.

Blonde Doris Day quit the Lucky Strike Hit Parade show and is back in Hollywood working in another film for Mike Curtiz. The sponsor is insistent that the up-tempo, loud style return to the program.

Barry Wood in town. He hopes to become a singing cowboy in Republic flickers. His family is coming out from N. Y. to settle permanently.

## Herman's Herd At Palladium In February

Woody Herman has signed contracts to appear with his reorganized herd at the Palladium, Hollywood dancery, for six weeks beginning Feb. 3. The room's current attraction is Elliot Lawrence.

Herman, who broke up his band last December and elected to remain in Hollywood for 10 months, concentrating upon radio and recording, has been out on the road for eight weeks with his new crew.

Woody will have a guarantee and a "percentage" of the Palladium gross every week.

### Jordan Eyes Theater

Louis Jordan will take his Tympany Seven directly from Billy Berg's Vine street nitery in Hollywood to the stage of the Lincoln Theater in downtown Los Angeles for a week beginning Dec. 27. Jordan, plenty hot as a box-office attraction, will get a "split" at the Central avenue house.



"OLD GREY MAYOR" is the surprising (and confusing) title of the next Monogram movie which stars young Freddie Stewart and the gang of teenagers which invariably features Freddie's supporting cast. The chicks trying to frame Freddie are Noel Neal and June Preisser. Stewart has just waxed "Diane," his most-requested tune, for Capitol. The "Dream Lady" isn't on it.

## Cantor Busy? Look At This Schedule For December Only

If a man is actually only as old as he feels, then Eddie Cantor will be around for a few more generations to come.

Doing a national radio program every week for 39 weeks in a row isn't much of a task for the banjo-eyed singer and comic. All the work involved in hiring and overseeing with Jane Harvey, and at the same time will be huddling under the bright Nevada sun with Harry Kurnitz, who is writing and producing "The Story Of Eddie Cantor" for Warners. The film will be similar to Columbia's "Jolson Story" of 1946.

### Garber Rolls Along; Biltmore Holds Him

Jan Garber, long a west coast fave, apparently isn't slipping. The management of the Hotel Biltmore in downtown Los Angeles has held Jan and his ork over for another eight-week period.

Russ Morgan, who preceded Garber at the Biltmore, parlayed his run into more than a solid year. Garber is determined to stay at the ornate Hotel Flamingo, to top him.



BALTIMORE gave Susan Miller to Hollywood, and here in Filmtown she's giving Abbott & Costello fans a charge with her songs on the A. & C. show via ABC Wednesdays. The bureau of vital statistics advises that she was born June 17, 1925, that she weighs 112 pounds, and that she's unmarried, or was as late as Nov. 25. Susie was chirping at Chicago's Chez Paree nitery when the two comedians spotted and signed her.

**Johnny MERCER and The PIED PIPERS**

with original lyrics and interpretations

CAPITOL RECORD No. 15004

**'JINGLE BELLS'**

**'SANTA CLAUS IS COMIN' TO TOWN'**

**Paul Weston and His Orchestra**

**Capitol RECORDS**

**The KING COLE TRIO**

**'THE CHRISTMAS SONG'**

(Merry Christmas to You)

Vocal by King Cole with King Cole Trio and String Choir

CAPITOL RECORD No. 311

**Capitol RECORDS**



**QUEEN OF THE COMMODORE . . .** That would be June Christy, who opened at the New York hostelry on Nov. 25 as featured thrush with Stan Kenton's "Artistry in Rhythm" groovesters. This shot, by Gene Howard, indicates the regard big Stan holds for the diminutive Illinois singer. Their latest disc is "Curiosity."

## Nellie Lutcher Hits Chicago

Nellie Lutcher's December itinerary finds the "real gone gal" doing two engagements in Chicago, one a theater.

Nellie opens on Dec. 5 at the Chi Regal for a week following a week as headliner at the Adams Theater in Newark. After the Regal and several other one-nighters, Nellie will open on Dec. 19 in the Panther room of the Windy City's Hotel Sherman. She recently closed at Barney Josephson's Cafe Society Downtown in New York after eight straight weeks of record-smashing biz. Josephson has booked her back for another long run in 1948.

### At Last! Maurice Chevalier Coming to L. A.

Back in New York after a crossing from Paris in late November, Maurice (The Lip) Chevalier announced he would soon be leaving for Los Angeles to present a series of "one man" concerts similar to those he offered in Manhattan last summer.

Chevalier, famous for 20 years as a singer, comedian and raconteur, will be seen in action for two weeks in Los Angeles starting Dec. 22. He also will appear for two weeks in San Francisco, beginning Dec. 4.

The grinning, personable little Frenchman intends to star in a new motion picture this winter in Hollywood, but contracts had not been signed as the Cap News went to press.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Andy Russell with Male Choir  
and Paul Weston and His Orchestra  
Andy's delightful Spanish adds new charm.  
**'SILENT NIGHT'** (Noche De Paz)  
**'THE FIRST NOEL'** (La Primera Navidad)  
CAPITOL RECORD No. 15013 \* \* \* \* \*

**Capitol**  
RECORDS

THREE YOUNG guys who got together during the war, while they were all wearing uniforms, are clicking these days with a combo which they call the Philharmonica Trio. Reading from up to down, as it were, are Harry Halicki, Charlie Pittello and Joe Pittello. Catch them in your favorite theater.

## New Jersey's Meadowbrook Next For Stan

Following his four-week run at the Commodore Hotel in New York, where his "Artistry in Rhythm" gang and June Christy are now playing nightly, Stan Kenton will take his troupe across the river for a Dec. 23 opening at the Meadowbrook in Cedar Grove, N. J.

Kenton will record extremely heavily this month in Capitol's New York studios. Pete Rugolo, his chief arranger, who remained in California to shape up a score of scores for waxing, rejoins the band in Manhattan Dec. 5 and will assist with the waxing sessions.

There are no changes in the band since it left California in late October. Eddie Safranski, Shelly Manne, Buddy Childers, Eddie Burt, Jack Constanza, Laurinda Almeida, Bob Cooper, Ray Wetzel, Chico Alvarez and others are Stan's featured performers. Another Kenton album is being prepared for 1948 release.



## L. A. Employing More Bands, Acts

### Jobs On Upbeat, Union Execs Say

Los Angeles night clubs and ballrooms now regularly employ about 350 orchestras, figures released last month by Local 47 of the American Federation of Musicians disclose.

Many of the 350 "orchestras" are, actually, small combos. But never before in the history of the union have as many musicians been employed—on a steady basis—as now.

The membership of Local 47 is around 12,000 musicians.

Along the same lines, Florine Bale, western chief of the American Guild of Variety Artists, reports that the number of niteries now offering floor shows, with live talent, is "slightly more than 150."

#### Only 72 A Year Ago

The area covered in the AGVA tabulation includes such suburban hamlets as San Pedro and Long Beach, but none of the major outlying towns such as San Diego or Santa Barbara.

Even during wartime only about 100 floor shows were being presented in Los Angeles' after-dark spots. A year ago this month, according to the AGVA executive, only 72 shows were being offered.

Most of the bistros are employing from one to three "scale-priced" acts. But totaled together, they all add up to an imposing figure, and one which is steadily boosting Los Angeles into a more prominent position as a show business center.

#### Nitery Competition Terrific

Television apparently is not killing off profits of bars and night spots. But business is not as healthy as most operators would like to see it. Both AGVA and AFM union leaders here in Los Angeles (Hollywood is a part of the city of L.A.) assert that more musicians and acts are being employed these days for the simple reason that many nitery operators feel they can improve business by presenting "live" entertainment.

Many unpretentious neighborhood spots, working on modest budgets, have recently tried offering floor shows or small music combos and have enjoyed such good results that they are continuing the policy. Just since last summer, according to "Daily Variety," six small cabarets in San Pedro—a home port for the U. S. Navy and its seamen—became full-fledged night clubs with "in person" acts and all of them are thriving. Previously, no flesh was employed in the town's boites.



**NEW SINGER** with Jimmy Dorsey's band, who sang last summer with Charlie Barnet, is Carol Scott. Here's Carol with her new boss JD whiling away their time, between shows at the Los Angeles Million Dollar Theater. Bill Lawrence is Jimmy's new baritone. He replaced Bob Carroll. Miss Scott took the place of Dee Parker, who cut out to do a single in Hollywood.

As each establishment licensed by the union has to post a cash bond to cover one week's salary for talent usually used, it can be estimated that nitery performers aggregate are grabbing around \$80,000 each week here. That figure does not embrace payments made to musicians. Of course, amount of bond offered in AGVA confines is not always indicative of what salaries a spot is paying. Slapsy Maxie's new management put up \$10,000 with AGVA upon reopening, and current lineup is not getting that sort of coin.

With Los Angeles and Hollywood annually taking over more and more network radio emanations, and with the picture studios grinding out more and more filmusicals, all of which require the services of crack, skilled, high-pay musicians, Southern California is steadily increasing in stature as a mecca for artists.

#### But That Housing Problem . . .

Weekly grosses are considerably off from wartime figures. But in those days, hundreds of thousands of men in military service were stationed in Southern California. The Palladium, in 1943, had

## Art Kassel Records With Garber's Band

Art Kassel, viewing the coming ban on recording, came to Hollywood in mid-November and waxed a flock of sides using Jan Garber's band. Kassel's crew, playing a job in Cleveland, would have been too expensive to transport 2,500 miles.

## Saunders King Coming

San Francisco's Saunders King combo is booked to open at the Downbeat Club, in downtown L. A., on Jan. 2. Jack McVea's crew is the spot's present attraction.

**new!**  
Her Very Latest Release!  
**Nellie Lutcher**  
and Her Rhythm  
CAPITOL RECORD  
No. 40063

**Do You Or Don't You Love Me?**  
**The Song is Ended**  
**Capitol**  
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.  
RECORDS

FLIPOVER:

"Song Is Ended"

"Do You Or Don't You Love Me?"

"Capitol"

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.  
RECORDS

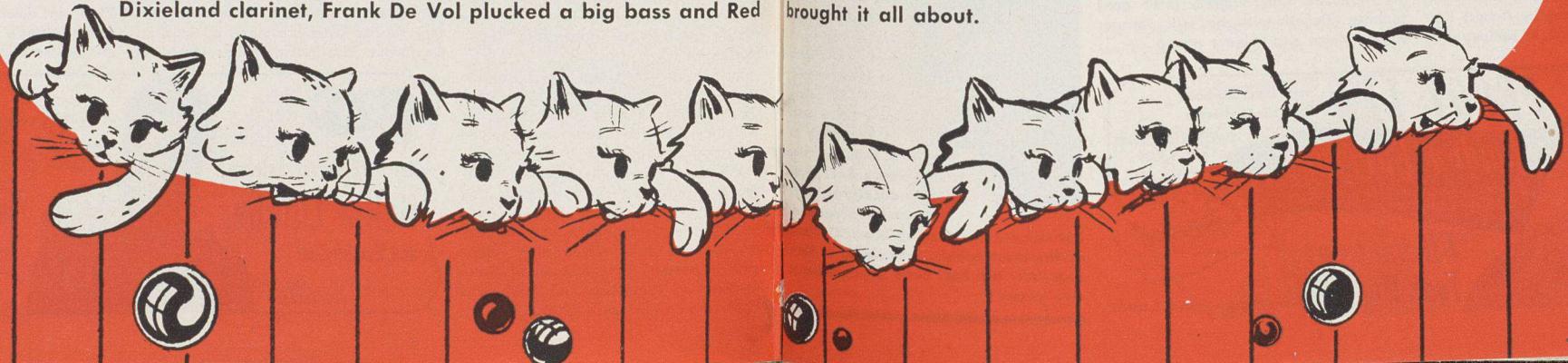


## *Introducing... 'TN CATS AND A MOUSE'*

DUE TO circumstances completely beyond Capitol's control, ten highly-regarded and ordinarily normal musicians are this month being featured on a new platter, playing instruments they've never before recorded with—or on. A "mouse" by the name of Peggy Lee flipped her wig and joined in too, swinging sticks and brushes and making like a drummer.

Dave Barbour blew a hot trumpet, Paul Weston played Dixieland clarinet, Frank De Vol plucked a big bass and Red

Norvo stroked the Steinway. Bobby Sherwood and Billy May became trombone soloists, Hal Derwin strummed a gitbox, Benny Carter tooted a tenor, Dave Cavanaugh booted a baritone and Eddie Miller, for the first time since he was a kid in New Orleans, got going on alto. It all sounds a little crazy on paper, but their waxing of "Three O'Clock Jump" and "Ja-Da" turned out pretty good. You can blame it on Pe-trillo. It was his "no more records after Dec. 31" edict that brought it all about.





JOHNNY LUCAS and his Dixielanders comprise Ward Kimball, tram; Clark Mallery, clarinet; Frank Thomas, piano; Ken Peterson, bass; Little Tom Todd, drums, and Lucas on trumpet. Their story is below.

## Dixieland Kick Getting Stronger; Lucas Band Latest Entry

Dixieland jazz continued to rise in popularity on the west coast through the fall months, and now it is Johnny Lucas, trumpeter, and his combo who are creating a stir among hot fans just as the Armstrong-Teagarden, Pete Daily, Kid Ory and Nappy Lamare bands created a stir earlier in the year.

Clarinetist Clark Mallery, Trombonist Ward Kimball and Frank Thomas, piano, are all regularly employed at the Walt Disney Studios. Lucas, Bassist Ken Peterson and "Little Tom" Todd, drums, are full-time musicians. They've all been beatin' it out on Monday nights at Brandon's in nearby Pasadena, and in November they added Friday nights to

their schedule by playing the Rendezvous Ballroom in Ocean Park.

Lucas got the band started one night two years ago when the musicians, strictly informally, began jamming at a private home. Now they're a box-office draw. Their most requested tune: "Oh, Didn't He Ramble."

### Xmas For Cugy On Stage of Theater

Recently-wed Xavier Cugat will take time out from his new chores as a candy maker (Cugat's Nougets) to lead his troupe for a week at the Los Angeles Million Dollar Theater starting Christmas Day.

Cugat recently wound a long and arduous road trip in the east. He intends to remain on the west coast, with his musicians and singers, until next summer. Occasionally he will saunter out to Metro and make a movie.

### Music For 'Radio' Pic

At least three name bands and as many singers will be featured in Monogram's forthcoming "Radio Rhythm" movie based on a story by Robert Rafferty. The movie will roll in January.

**PEGGY LEE**

**'Golden Earrings'**

Haunting gypsy melody from Paramount's "Golden Earrings."

**'I'll Dance at Your Wedding'**

Clever lyrics—lots of bounce.

with Dave Barbour  
and His Orchestra

CAPITOL RECORD  
No. 15009

**Capitol**  
RECORDS PAY OFF

## Armstrong Due At Berg's On Christmas Eve

Back to the scene of his first triumph, last summer, when he resumed as leader of a small, hot combo featuring both white and colored musicians, Louis Armstrong is set for a Dec. 24 return to Billy Berg's Club in the heart of Hollywood.

Old Satch, for a quarter of a century acclaimed as the greatest trumpeter in jazz, will open on Dec. 3 at the Burma Club in San Francisco at a reported \$4,000 weekly. Three weeks later he will come south to begin an eight-week run a Berg's.

Jack Teagarden again will be featured as vocal and trombone soloist. Big Jack, idol of tram sliders for two decades, has worked out a dozen routines with Armstrong where they alternate as vocalists and horn soloists.

Barney Bigard, clarinet, and Big Sid Catlett, drums, also are expected in Hollywood Christmas eve with the Armstrong combo. Ella Fitzgerald is booked to follow the Satchmo outfit in February, probably with Joe Lutcher's jump band providing the dansapation.

### Butch Blowing Hot After Eastern Trek

Butch Stone returned to Hollywood after a road trip to Chicago and Milwaukee in time for a Nov. 18 opening at the Red Feather nitery on the far south side of L. A. Artie Wayne will open at the same spot Dec. 2 as featured singer.

### MEET THE JOCK!

GARY LESTERS heats the airwaves over WRIB in Providence, coming on as early as 7:05 a.m. daily for a breakfast session during which time his listeners are invited — urged to telephone him while he's at the mike.

Only 24, Gary spent three years in the army as a radio operator on a B-17. Frequently he sings with a record,

but despite that failing is rated as one of the most popular jocks in all of New England. He has been a professional five years.

## U-I Prepping 13 Music Soundtracks

### Leith Stevens On 'Sons' Flicker

The selection of Leith Stevens as music director on "All My Sons" at Universal-International brings to eight the number of baton wielders scoring or pre-scoring a total of thirteen films at that studio simultaneously, more than ever before in the history of the Valley lot, according to Milton Schwarzwald, studio musical head.

In addition to Stevens' scoring of "Sons" the following music directors are at work: Daniel Amphitheatre on "The Senator Was Indiscreet," "Letter from an Unknown Woman" and "Another Part of the Forest;" Frank Skinner on "Tap Roots," Paul Sawtell on "River Lady;" Miklos Rozsa on "A Double Life," "Secret Beyond the Door" and "A Woman's Vengeance;" George Bassman on "The Naked City;" Johnny Green on "Up in Central Park;" Walter Schatz on "Casbah" and "Are You With It?"

### Sinatra Set for Movie

Robert Mitchum and Frank Sinatra join Cary Grant and Tim Holt in star roles in RKO's "Honored Glory," story of nine unidentified soldiers killed in action whose bodies are brought back by War Department from abroad. Top names will be used for other parts.



IN CHARGE of the music on Red Skelton's Tuesday night NBC stanzas from Hollywood are David Rose and Anita Ellis. Rose pens the scores and wields the baton; Anita sings. The ork which Rose conducts, incidentally, is the largest studio aggregation regularly featured on a network humor program.



FRANTIC CHICK behind the wheel of the shiny Caddie is Kay Starr, who spent most of November learning to drive. Arranger-Conductor Buddy Baker volunteered to instruct the fast-rising brunet chirp, but it didn't pan out. Kay, Buddy and assorted spectators look over the results; now Kay gets around Hollywood with someone else at the wheel.

### Chicago Next On Kay Starr's Singing Schedule

The hottest new singer in the biz, Kay Starr, will tackle Chicago next. After a long stay in Hollywood, Kay completes a heavy recording schedule this month and plans to arrive in the toddlin' town about Dec. 15.

General Artists Corp. is setting her bookings. Just where she'll be featured hasn't been announced, but her price has jumped six times what it was a year ago as a result of her Capitol needlings of "Lonesomest Gal In Town" and "Share Croppin' Blues."

### St Louis Looms For Skitch's Ork

Skitch Henderson, on the road these many months, still has a mess of traveling ahead. On New Year's eve, he and his band will open at the Chase Hotel in St. Louis following a run at the New York Capitol

### Frank Loesser Sets Deal With Metro

The man who composed "Bloop Bleep" and other tunes America sings, Frank Loesser, just joined MGM on a double deal which makes him an associate producer and scorer for Metro's "Neptune's Daughter" filmusical now shooting.

Jack Conway is producing it, and Red Skelton, Esther Williams and Betty Garrett will have leading roles. When Loesser finishes his deal he will return to Paramount, his home lot, to write songs for Betty Hutton's next pic, a musical version of "Ruggles of Red Gap."

Theater with Frank Sinatra and other topflight entertainers.

Henderson's schedule calls for him to return to the west coast in April. The jocks and juke are giving his "Papa, Won't You Dance With Me?" platter a whirl, meanwhile, and Skitch is cutting many more faces before heading west to the Mound City hostelry.

### 'CURIOSITY'

Happy novelty of the "Shoo Fly" variety  
Vocal by June Christy

### 'THEME TO THE WEST'

Piano Solo — Stan Kenton  
and His Orchestra

An exciting concert-type instrumental



# off the cuff

HIGH SCHOOL music fans are plenty hot about the way America's youth is portrayed in radio skits and in movie pictures. A survey last month made by Eagle-Lion Studios revealed that boys and girls 18 and younger protest (1) too much use of "jive talk" and silly jargon, (2) jam sessions at which all the participants are depicted swooning and (3) dressing all teen-agers in sloppy joes, jeans and saddle shoes.

The studio, as a result, will carefully avoid such portrayals in filming its "Mickey" musical, to be released early in 1948. Lois Butler, Bill Goodwin and Irene Hervey have leading roles.

GAC's Dick Webster resigned and is setting up his own business. Dick is one of the best-liked bookers in the trade.

Pete Daily and his Chicagoans, a rugged little jazz combo featured nightly at the Hangover Club on Vine street, playing Sunday afternoon 'bakes' at the Red Feather bistro on the far south side. Daily fronts the band with his heated cornet.

Columbia's "To the Ends of the Earth" film is being scored by former K. Kyser arranger, George Dunning.

Ork leader Joe Liggins lost a \$50,000 plagiarism suit in superior court here last month to Roy Gould. Litigation was over tune "I Got a Right to Cry," which was published last year with Liggins credited as composer. Liggins said he would appeal court's ruling.

Max Steiner drew the chore of scoring "Christopher Blake" for Warner Brothers' film. He's the man who scored "Gone With the Wind" and "Now, Voyager," among others.

Vic Dickenson's fly little combo has been sharing the bandstand with Louie Jordan at Billy Berg's since Nov. 12. Harold Jovien of GAC is booking the trombonist.

Jo Stafford the latest to own a '48 Cadillac.



MAYBE YOU'VE heard Tex Williams sing the warning, "Never Trust a Woman." In this enactment of the lyric, the same Mr. Williams depicts just one of the reasons why the tune is a success. Grasping the rolling pin is the real Mrs. Williams.

## 'SERENADE OF THE BELLS'

Jo, with eight-voice chorus

## 'THE GENTLEMAN IS A DOPE'

From the Musical  
"Allegro." A  
lively, novelty  
lyric.

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RECORDS

**JO STAFFORD**

with Paul Weston and His Orchestra

CAPITOL RECORD  
No. 15007

# Harry Barris Riding High After Illness

Flat on his back and seriously ill a year ago, Harry Barris is back in business again with a future that shines brightly. The former Paul Whiteman singer, who once formed the "Rhythm Boys" combo with Bing Crosby and Al Rinker, this month will wind up work in 20th-Fox's "You Were Meant For Me" as one of the featured actors along with Jeanne Crain and Dan Dailey.

Barris enjoyed tremendous success as a singer and songwriter a decade ago, turning out smash hits like "I Surrender Dear," "Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams," "Lies" and "Mississippi Mud." But neuritis laid him low, and until a few weeks ago he was considered washed up. On top of his new career as an actor, Harry is having good success with his newest ditty, "Torchy."

## Beneke's Band Is Coming to Coast

Gordon (Tex) Beneke returns to the Palladium on Dec. 24 with his band, following Elliott Lawrence's young crew.

Beneke's band, just two years old, also will drop the "Glenn Miller" billing it has been using. Tex's outfit features a string section along with the conventional rhythm, reed and brass teams. Beneke fronts with his tenor pipe.

## MEET THE JOCK!

BOB MICHAEL, at 21, may not be the youngest platter pilot in the land, but he's a long way from the oldest. Starting as a ham, he drifted into pro spilling over WPIC in Sharon, Pa. Today he is heard as chief spinner on WNAE in Warren, Pa., and is said to draw more mail than any other in the territory. Bob's "Luncheon Melodies" stanza has a tame title, but bright and stimulating music all the way. Hear him at 1310 on the dial.



# singers' stuff

DINAH SHORE will accept no more guest shots on radio programs, her doc having advised her that her baby should be arriving "shortly before Christmas." For several months she's had a room at Cedars of Lebanon Hospital in L.A. reserved. She also is said to have completed the waxing of 75 to 100 songs for future record releases during the coming Petrillo ban.

Peggy Lee up and at 'em again after taking four weeks off for a hospital checkup and rest. She's heard every Wednesday, on NBC, with Schnoz Durante.

Evelyn Knight postponed her Ciro's opening until Christmas week, when she will appear in conjunction with Carmen Cavallaro's music. Reason for the postponement was the holding over of Kay Thompson and the Williams Brothers, easily the most dynamic and boffo singing act to be uncovered in years. Kay and the four handsome guys (real brothers) have proved more than merely sensational.

Back to Kansas City, and Milton's Tap Room, went Julia Lee in late November. She played the Million Dollar Theatre with Count Basie's band and a waxed a batch of fetching etchings for future



FIERY BRAZILIAN, shown soaking up the California sun, is Rosina Pagan, who sings with Buzz Adlam's orchestra from Filmtown. Back home in Rio, Rosina was also noted as an actress.



SINGERS' STUFF is precisely the caption that best fits this unposed candid shot, taken last month in New York, when Clark Dennis dropped in to dig Nellie Lutcher's real gone act at Cafe Society Downtown. Nellie opens at the Sherman Hotel, Chicago, on Dec. 19 for four weeks. Dennis, like Lutcher, is recording heavily this month.

Capitol release. The "Snatch and Grab" gal recorded with some of the finest jazzmen on the west coast. Her latest entry is "My Sin" featuring Red Norvo, Benny Carter, Vic Dickenson, Bobby Sherwood, Red Nichols, Red Callender, Dave Cavanaugh, Jack Marshall, Baby Lovett and others, paired with "Doubtful Blues."

Connie Jordan and the Jordanares will share the stand with Louis Armstrong's All-Stars starting Dec. 24 at Billy Berg's.

Martha Tilton will take over Lina Romay's chirping spot on the Dick Haymes show this month, immediately upon her return from an eastern theatre tour with Andy Russell. Andy will be home in California for the holidays, too.

Slim Gaillard (remember him?) and Miss Danna returned to the Starlit room on the Sunset Strip Nov. 18.

20th-Fox picked up options on Louanne Hogan, canary, and Earle Hagen, arranger and conductor, for another year.

"A Connecticut Yankee" will be Bing Crosby's 39th movie. Paramount, natch, is making it.

Lynn Stevens trained to join Frankie Carle's band as oriole, replacing Frankie's daughter, Marjorie Hughes, who is now in Hollywood transcribing Philco programs like crazy with Der Bingle. Crosby is cutting two a week and hopes to have enough half-hour programs on wax to last until next May, thus beating the Petrillo ban legally.

After all those years singing and playing saxophone, Clyde Rogers will soon quit the Freddy Martin band to free-lance.

Virginia Maxey, recently with the Modernaires, bought a horse.

## GORDON MacRAE

with Paul Weston and His Orchestra

## 'At the Candlelight Cafe'

FLIP-OVER:

## 'I Surrender Dear'

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who's where

# Waco's Hank Thompson Seen As New Western Sensation

BY LEE GILLETTE

COUNT BASIE: Meadowbrook Ballroom, opening Dec. 2

LOUIS JORDAN: Billy Berg's

LOUIS ARMSTRONG: Billy Berg's, opening Dec. 24

PETE DAILY: Hangover Club

VIC DICKENSON: Billy Berg's

GEECHIE SMITH: Cricket Club

DICK STABILE: Slapsy Maxie's

BUTCH STONE: Red Feather

JACK McVEA: Downbeat Club

ELLIOTT LAWRENCE: Palladium

TEX BENEKE: Palladium, opening Dec. 24

JAN GARDER: Hotel Biltmore

FREDDY MARTIN: Hotel Ambassador

GENE PHILLIPS: The Last Word

THREE MELODAIRES: Waikiki Inn

JOHNNY OTIS: Club Alabam

HOLLYWOOD FOUR BLAZES: Ringside Club

CHUCK GOULD: Florentine Gardens

ABBEY BROWN: Charley Foy's

MANNY STRAND: Earl Carroll's

LORENZO FLENOY TRIO: Swannee Inn

SIGMUND SCHATZ: Bublichki

SLIM GAILLARD: Starlit Room

MATTY MALNECK: Chanteclair

HARRY ROSENTHAL: Chanteclair

JESSE PRICE: Morris Hotel

Down at Station WACO in Waco, Tex., is a 22-year-old lad who has been strumming a guitar and singing western ditties for most of his 22 years. Originally known as "Hank the Hired Hand," Hank Thompson first began broadcasting in 1942. In 1946, after serving 37 long months with the navy in the Pacific, Hank resumed his radio activities on Waco's Station KWTX, eventually (this past year) moving back to WACO. He is now airing a sponsored series five days a week.

**A Ritter 'Discovery'**

Tex Ritter first started raving about Hank. He heard the young artist while on tour through Texas and quickly reported to Capitol executives that Thompson should be put on wax. And so, in mid-December, the first Hank Thompson disc will be released by Capitol, coupling two of Hank's own compositions, "Humpty-Dumpty Heart" and "Today."

As for statistics, Handsome Hank is 6, 2 tall and built like a brick skidhouse. His personality is even more forceful. Hal Horton of Dallas' KRLD hails Hank as the "next big western star." So do many others.

**How Movies Are Made**

If you think making western movies is a cinch, try spending an afternoon on the Monogram Pictures ranch at Newhall, Cal. Jimmy Wakely is busy at work. Here's how they go at it:

Jimmy finishes breakfast at six a.m. and is on the ranch at 7 ready to go to work. All day long he stands before hot kleig lights doing one scene after another, many of them three or four times so as to get it "just right." The tension is terrific because shooting schedules on most western epics are tight. It is no wonder somebody explodes when an extra blows his lines.

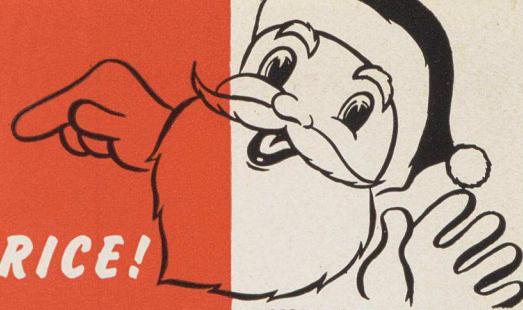
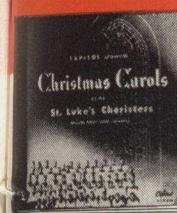
On the set with Wakely the day I visited the ranch were numerous western luminaries whose parts, however small, were important to the picture. Among his supporting cast were Dub "Cannonball" Taylor, commonly seen in many Tex Ritter and Wakely "horse operas"; guitar-vocalist Dick Reinhardt and Capitol artists Cliffie Stone and Arthur Smith. Strange as it may seem, many of these folks spend four or five hours a day just sitting around whit-



HANK THOMPSON will make his debut as a western singer on the red Capitol Americana label this month as a result of the sensational following he has acquired via his radio broadcasts in Waco, Tex. Hank served 37 months in the Pacific with the U. S. Navy.

ting wood because many scenes do not require their presence before the cameras. It is monotonous work. Every two or three minutes the warning signal lets out with a whine, cautioning everyone near the set to keep quiet. As Cliffie Stone puts it: "It's the hardest work I ever done." Cliffie is like the rest of us . . . not used to sitting around all day just staring into space or starting a conversation only to be "shut up" every few minutes. It keeps you on edge and frays your nerves. By six or seven o'clock at night, Wakely and everybody else are worn out and ready to hit the hay, but after dinner usually at the Circle "J" Ranch near Newhall, there's always a newspaper photographer, columnist or songwriter to see. Of course, this particular day, Wakely was haunted by yours truly to get some songs set for Jimmy's next session for Capitol. All told, it's a long day and we who take three hours to do a phonograph recording session are kind of lucky after all. Personally, they can have "movie making."

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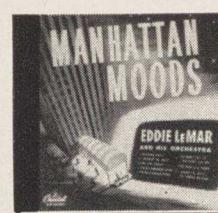
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Grand for smooth dancing or lazy listening. Eddie LeMar and Orchestra.  
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with orchestra of  
star instrumentalists.



**'Opportunity Knocks But Once  
SNATCH AND GRAB IT'**

Sorta like 'Gotta Gimme Whatcha Got.'

**'I WAS WRONG'**

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## aboard the 'FREEDOM TRAIN'



FIGURATIVELY speaking, not literally, the gang above is 100 per cent aboard the Freedom Train which will arrive on the west coast in February. That's Paul Weston at the piano, and John Mercer, Mag Whiting, Peg Lee,

Ben Goodman and June Hutton and the Pied Pipers stretched out. All nine got together and recorded Irving Berlin's "Freedom Train" song to commemorate this undertaking. It's a new purple label Capitol disc.